

"The Central Coast continues to face a series of transportation challenges that threaten the economic development of our region," Rep. Farr said. "We saw an influx of transportation funds from the Recovery Act, but we can't lose momentum in addressing these challenges. These two projects are both important to the long-term viability of our transportation infrastructure."

Program details:

- Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail, \$450,000. Funds will help fill in missing gaps in the 52-mile pathway linking existing and newly established segments into a continuous coastal trail around the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The trail will reduce congestion, create an accessible scenic trail for recreational cyclists, encourage economic development and increase tourism revenues for the region.
- Monterey-Salinas Transit Intelligent Transportation Systems Security Systems Upgrade, \$800,000. Equipment will help protect MST passengers and bus drivers. Alarms can call first responders, microphones allow for monitoring emergency situations and GPS locators can speed reaction times. The system was put to the test last year when a bus was struck by gunfire. However, MST was informed that the 10-year-old equipment needed to be upgraded to remain operational.

"The trail that I've worked on for years is nearing the funding levels that will allow serious construction to begin. The dual investments in easing our transportation corridors and attracting more tourism investment to our area will be invaluable in the years ahead, and I eagerly look forward to progress on this project," Rep. Farr said.

Rep. Farr added: "We all saw how valuable the security system on our mass transit could be last year, and I think it's vital that we keep that public safety system up to date."

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